IV. Types of Fellowships
   
   A. Project-based Fellowships

   Project-based fellowships are those funded by foundations for applicants who develop a specific, substantive project to be sponsored by a public interest law firm or organization. The foundations typically have particular, area-specific limitations on the projects they will fund or have particular areas of interest. All fellowships have a term limit of usually one or two years. If a project is extended, the fellow will be responsible for obtaining continued funding. Foundations often base their funding decisions on the applicants qualifications, the supervisory and support capacity of the public interest organization, and community need for and utility of the applicant’s project.

   For project-based fellowships you do not have to have a well-developed project in mind before approaching a sponsor organization. You should, however, have an area of law in mind (immigration, prisoners rights, environmental . . .) and a wish list of organizations that you would like to sponsor you. This list should include organizations that you would consider for post-fellowship employment and they should be able to adequately supervise you as a fellow.

   Examples of Project-based Fellowships:

   Skadden Fellowships
   www.skaddenfellowships.org

   The Skadden Fellowship Foundation was established in 1988 and sponsors approximately 25 new fellowships each year in public interest organizations across the country. Fellows create public interest projects to work on issues of access to legal services for the poor, homeless, elderly and disabled, and those denied their civil rights. Fellowships are awarded for one year with the expectation of renewal for a second year. Skadden fellows are paid a salary of $47,000 per year and up to $10,000 per year in loan repayment assistance.

   Recent Skadden Fellows have created projects to work with organizations such as Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, The Door - Legal Services in New York, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, Mental Health Legal Services in Los Angeles, the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York and the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.

   Independence Foundation Public Interest Fellowships
   www.independencefoundation.org

   The Independence Foundation Public Interest Law Fellowship Program was established in 1996 to address the need for enhanced legal services to underserved populations in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. The Fellowship supports four law graduates each year to work in one of the many nonprofit
organizations that provide free legal services to traditionally disadvantaged groups.

Recent Independence Foundation Fellows have created projects to work with organizations such as the AIDS Law Project of Philadelphia, Women Against Abuse Legal Center, Friends of Farmworkers, HIAS and Counsel Migration Services, Philadelphia Legal Assistance and Regional Housing Legal Services.

**Equal Justice Works Fellowships**

www.equaljusticeoworks.org

Equal Justice Works Public Interest Fellowships represent the nation's largest postgraduate legal public service fellowship program. Equal Justice Works fellows work with a host organization to advocate for underserved communities in the U.S. and its territories through a variety of approaches, including community legal education and training, organizing, direct services, litigation, transactional work, and administrative or legislative efforts. Each host organization sets the fellow's salary commensurate to what a standard entry-level attorney would receive at that organization. Fellows also receive loan repayment assistance.

Equal Justice Works Fellowships are fully funded fellowships for which the law student or graduate directly applies. With this type of fellowship, the student or graduate creates a project in conjunction with a sponsoring public interest organization and the fellow’s salary is funded by Equal Justice Works and a sponsor private law firm.

Fellows have created projects to work with organizations such as Legal Services of North Texas in Dallas, the National Clearinghouse for Defense of Battered Women in Philadelphia, the Welfare Law Center in New York, the Florence Immigrant Aid Project in Arizona, the East Bay Community Center in Oakland Equality Advocates of Pennsylvania and the Innocence Project.

**New Voices**

http://newvoices.aed.org

The New Voices Fellowship Program is a capacity-building and leadership development grant program that assists nonprofit organizations and professionals entering the fields of human rights and international cooperation. Sponsored program areas include international human rights, women's rights, racial justice, migrant and refugee rights, peace and security, foreign policy, and international economic policy.

Selected fellows are offered financial assistance, training, and other opportunities for personal and professional development. Their host organizations are provided salary-support grants, as well as technical assistance from national experts. The goal of the program is to help both the host organization and the Fellow realize their full potential. Applications are prepared jointly by the organization and its proposed Fellow and submitted by the organization. The organization may recruit its prospective Fellow based on organizational goals, priorities, and needs, or the Fellow may approach an eligible organization, based on his or her
New Voices fellows are working with organizations that include the Asian Immigrant Women Advocates in Oakland, CA, the Center for International Policy in DC, the Virginia Justice Center for Farm and Immigrant Workers in Charlottesville VA, and the New Jersey Work Environment Council.

**Soros Foundation Justice Fellowships**

[www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus_areas/justice_fellows/guidelines/advocacy](www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus_areas/justice_fellows/guidelines/advocacy)

The goal of the Center's Fellowship program is to support fellows who create innovative programs in the field of criminal justice. Eligible applicants must be in their final year of graduate study or within six years of graduation in the fields of law, public health, economics, social work, or other areas related to criminal justice. Applicants secure sponsorship from nonprofit or government organizations whose mission is related to the field of criminal justice and propose projects to be implemented with the organization's support.

Fellows have founded child advocacy programs in Central Virginia, established domestic violence projects for battered immigrant women in Boston and San Francisco, evaluated programs for the office of the District Attorney in San Francisco, developed plans to combat the growth of gang-related violence on Native American reservations, and researched evidentiary rules on rape as a war crime for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

**B. Organization-based Fellowships**

Many public interest organizations administer and fund their own fellowships. Candidates apply directly to the organization. These fellowships are essentially structured like judicial clerkships in that they are one to two years and hold no expectation of continued employment with the organization. Although these fellowships are competitive, their application processes are generally straightforward. Applicants do not have to develop or market a project.

**Examples of Organization-based Fellowships:**

The best example of organizational fellowships are those funded by the ACLU. They can be found at [www.aclu.org/jobs](www.aclu.org/jobs) and include the:

- **Applied Research Fellowship in Civil Liberties and National Security**
- **Brennan Fellowship** (focused on First Amendment cases)
- **Karpatkin Fellowship** (focused on civil liberties/racial justice)
- **Reproductive Freedom Project Fellowship**

**Others:**
**Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellowship** (administered by Business and Professional People for the Public Interest in Chicago, IL, a one year fellowship on public housing and education, ([www.bpichicago.org/jfi.html](http://www.bpichicago.org/jfi.html))

**Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Fellowship** (administered by The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights in San Francisco, ([www.lccr.com/jobs.html](http://www.lccr.com/jobs.html))

### C. Firm-sponsored Fellowships

Private law firms have developed a variety of public interest fellowship models. There are three basic models: (1) a law firm places a fellow in an outside public interest organization, (2) a fellow works in the firm exclusively on pro bono matters, and (3) a public interest law firm hires a fellow as a junior associate for a one or two year term.

**Examples:**

**Model 1**
- Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson Fellowship ([www.ffhsj.com](http://www.ffhsj.com))

**Model 2**

**Model 3**
- Relman Civil Rights Fellowship ([www.relmanlaw.com/recruit.html](http://www.relmanlaw.com/recruit.html))
- Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger Environmental Fellowship ([www.smwlaw.com/employmt.htm](http://www.smwlaw.com/employmt.htm))

### D. Non-Legal, Non-Profit Grants

Independent fellowship seekers may want to simply apply for foundation grants. Fellowship seekers may apply for foundation grants with a non-profit organization as sponsor, or by forming their own non-profit organization to apply for grants.

**Examples of Non-Legal, Non-Profit Grants:**

**Echoing Green Foundation Public Interest Fellowships** ([www.echoinggreen.org](http://www.echoinggreen.org))

Echoing Green offers two year fellowships to those who develop the most compelling independent and autonomous public service projects. They do not have to be law-related projects. Echoing Green has funded projects related to the environment, the arts, education, civil and human rights, and community economic
Ashoka Fellowships (www.ashoka.org/fellows)

Ashoka offers international fellowships to social entrepreneurs who have new ideas to effect positive social change.